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Title Index

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Reports

The US and Russia Face to Face as Ice Curtain. YaleGlobal. Humphrey Hawksley. November 5, 2015.

The U.S. defense budget for 2014 is more than double that of Russia and China's combined. Measuring naval strength is trickier as comparisons of hulls or personnel matter less than surveillance and sophisticated weaponry and vessels like ice-cutters. As climate change melts sea ice, countries eye the Arctic for natural resources and trade routes, reassessing naval positions. Journalist Humphrey Hawksley writes about the Ice Curtain between the United States and Russia, one of three symbolic frontiers of the Cold War with just 88 kilometers separating each mainland: "Russia is bolstering its military presence there while reminding that its maritime boundary with the United States remains in dispute. For its part, the United States has stayed quiet." The border between two rivals is described as non-hostile. Alaskans and Russians struggle with budgets too dependent on oil, yet are hopeful that melting sea ice means more development, infrastructure and trade for their remote settings.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/ice-curtain-melts [HTML format, various paging].

Confronting the Terror Finance Challenge in Today's Middle East. Center for American Progress. Hardin Lang et al. November 2, 2015.

In the years since 2011, the Middle East has been convulsed by instability. Bad governance and civil war have left vacuums that extremist groups have eagerly filled. Competition between regional powers is on the rise; it is often waged violently through sectarian proxies, including terrorist groups. As the nature of the terrorist threat evolves, so must the tools to combat it. A reinvigorated push by the United States to cut off the flows of financial support to the terrorist networks that are straining the state system of the Middle East will help advance stability and prosperity in the region.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/01155949/TerrorFinance2-report-10.pdf [PDF format, 39 pages, 391.51 KB].

The High Cost of Resettling Middle Eastern Refugees. Center for Immigration Studies. Karen Zeigler and Steven A. Camarota. November 2015.

As Americans continue to debate what to do about the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East, the analysis estimates the costs of resettling refugees from that region in the United States. According to the analysis, in their first five years in the United States each refugee from the Middle East costs taxpayers $64,370, 12 times what the UN estimates it costs to care for one refugee in neighboring Middle Eastern countries. The cost of resettlement includes heavy welfare use by Middle Eastern refugees; 91 percent

receive food stamps and 68 percent receive cash assistance. Costs also include processing refugees, assistance given to new refugees, and aid to refugee-receiving communities. Given the high costs of resettling refugees in the United States, providing for them in neighboring countries in the Middle East may be a more cost-effective way to help them.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://cis.org/sites/cis.org/files/camarota-refugees-15_0.pdf [PDF format, 10 pages, 1.01 MB].

Item#4
The Militarization of Crimea under Russian Occupation. Atlantic Council. Andrii Klymenko. October 29, 2015.

In the report, Crimean activist Andrii Klymenko explains how the Kremlin has moved to tighten its grip on Crimea as the world turns its focus toward Syria. Indeed, Russia has proven itself to be settling in for the long haul in Crimea, with mass relocations of Russian military servicemen to the peninsula spurring housing shortages and massive infrastructure projects.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/images/publications/The_Militarization_of_Crimea_under_Russian_Occupation.pdf [PDF format, 11 pages, 1.06 MB].

Item#5
Opposition Wins in Myanmar, But Military Still Holds the Reins. YaleGlobal. Bertil Lintner. November 12, 2015.

The National League for Democracy, an opposition party in Myanmar led by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, has won a landslide victory. The military has pledged to work with Suu Kyi, but has a lock on 25 percent of seats in parliament, enough to prevent changes to the nation's constitution if none of its representatives go astray, explains Lintner. Suu Kyi's NLD also won elections in 1990, but the military continued to keep her under long-term arrest. "Now the real work begins, and a new government led by NLD must deliver on its promises – or disappoint the people who voted for change on November 8," explains Lintner.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/opposition-wins-myanmar-military-still-holds-reins [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6
"Our School Became the Battlefield": Using Schools for Child Recruitment and Military Purposes in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Human Rights Watch. October 27, 2015.

For many children in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo who yearn to study, armed men in their schools is an all too familiar sight. As the country grapples with ongoing fighting among various armed groups and the Congolese army (Forces armées de la République Démocratique du Congo, FARDC), abuses by troops in and around schools has serious consequences for the safety of students, teachers,

and administrators, as well as students' ability to learn. The report documents how schools have come under attack from armed groups engaged in eastern Congo's armed conflicts.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.hrw.org/report/2015/10/27/our-school-became-battlefield/using-schools-child-recruitment-and-military In English [HTML format, various paging].

http://www.hrw.org/fr/report/2015/10/27/notre-ecole-devint-un-champ-de-bataille/lutilisation-des-ecoles-comme-lieux-de In French [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7
U.S. Strategic Nuclear Forces: Background, Developments, and Issues. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Amy F. Woolf. November 3, 2015.

Even though the United States plans to reduce the number of warheads deployed on its long-range missiles and bombers, consistent with the terms of the New START Treaty, it also plans to develop new delivery systems for deployment over the next 20-30 years. The 114th Congress will continue to review these programs, and the funding requested for them, during the annual authorization and appropriations process.

http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/nuke/RL33640.pdf [PDF format, 48 pages, 1.01 MB].

Item#8
China's New Economic Plan Tackles the Rebalancing Puzzle. YaleGlobal. Stephen S. Roach. November 10, 2015.

Early reports on China's Five-Year Plan outlining the government's strategic priorities for 2016 to 2020 indicate preparations for slowed yet more sustainable economic growth. The plan involves ongoing transition toward an economy that promotes service industries, private consumption, innovation and entrepreneurship. The plan endorses a diversified economy, emphasizing quality rather than quantity for development and avoiding aimless pursuit of hyper-growth, explains Stephen S. Roach.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china%E2%80%99s-new-economic-plan-tackles-rebalancing-puzzle [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9
The Southeast Asia-Australia Regional Migration System: Some Insights into the "New Emigration" Migration Policy Institute. Graeme Hugo et al. November 2015.

The report dispels the perception that flows between Australia and the ASEAN region are headed in one direction: to Australia. Using unpublished administrative data, the authors sketch a picture of skilled Australian emigration to ASEAN, significant temporary movements of skilled workers in both directions, and close connections between the two regions even after migrants permanently return to their country of origin.

http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/southeast-asia-australia-regional-migration-system-some-insights-new-emigration [HTML format with a link to the PDF file].

Item#10
Global Concern about Climate Change, Broad Support for Limiting Emissions. Pew Research Center. Bruce Stokes et al. November 5, 2015.

In a few weeks, world leaders will gather in Paris to negotiate a climate change agreement that will frame the global agenda on this issue for the next decade and beyond. There is a global consensus that climate change is a significant challenge. Majorities in all 40 nations polled say it is a serious problem, and a global median of 54% consider it a very serious problem. Moreover, a median of 78% support the idea of their country limiting greenhouse gas emissions as part of an international agreement in Paris.

http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2015/11/Pew-Research-Center-Climate-Change-Report-FINAL-November-5-2015.pdf [PDF format, 44 pages, 3.94 MB].

Item#11
Keeping the Edge: U.S. Innovation. Council on Foreign Relations. October 2015.

The United States leads the world in combining innovation quality and quantity, but the challenges are growing, particularly when it comes to scientific research. Addressing gaps in U.S. innovation policy could help ensure that the United States remains the leading innovation center for decades to come.

http://www.cfr.org/innovation/keeping-edge-us-innovation/p37127 [HTML format with a link to the PDF file, 28 pages, 6.9 MB].

Item#12
Birthright Citizenship and Children Born in the United States to Alien Parents: An Overview of the Legal Debate. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Alexandra M. Wyatt. October 28, 2015.

The first clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, known as the Citizenship Clause, provides that "[a]ll persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." This generally has been taken to mean that any person born in the United States automatically gains U.S. citizenship, regardless of the citizenship or immigration status of the person's parents, with limited exceptions such as children born to recognized foreign diplomats. The current rule is often called "birthright citizenship."

http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/misc/R44251.pdf [PDF format, 25 pages, 723.95 KB].

Item#13
U.S. Public Becoming Less Religious. Pew Research Center. November 3, 2015.

Is the American public becoming less religious? Yes, at least by some key measures of what it means to be a religious person. An extensive new survey of more than 35,000 U.S. adults finds that the percentages who say they believe in God, pray daily and regularly go to church or other religious services all have declined modestly in recent years. The study also finds a great deal of stability in the U.S. religious landscape. The recent decrease in religious beliefs and behaviors is largely attributable to the "nones" – the growing minority of Americans, particularly in the Millennial generation, who say they do not belong to any organized faith.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewforum.org/files/2015/11/201.11.03_RLS_II_full_report.pdf [PDF format, 266 pages, 3.61 MB].

Item#14
Who Is Multiracial? Depends on How You Ask. Pew Research Center. Eileen Patten. November 6, 2015.

Racial identity is far from a straightforward concept, and when multiple strands of identity come together this has the potential to increase the complexity. An individual's racial self-identity may take into account a range of factors beyond genealogy, including family ties, physical appearance, culture and how others perceive them. In other words, being multiracial is more than just a straightforward summation of the races in an individual's family tree.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2015/11/2015-11-06_race-question-methods_FINAL.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages, 599.51 KB].

Item#15
Internet Governance and the Domain Name System: Issues for Congress. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Lennard G. Kruger. November 9, 2015.

The Internet is often described as a "network of networks" because it is not a single physical entity, but hundreds of thousands of interconnected networks linking hundreds of millions of computers around the world. As such, the Internet is international, decentralized, and comprised of networks and infrastructure largely owned and operated by private sector entities. As the Internet grows and becomes more pervasive in all aspects of modern society, the question of how it should be governed becomes more pressing.

http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/misc/R42351.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages, 838.01 KB].